

The Invention Claimed Is:

1. A method of reducing the effective volume of a patient's stomach cavity comprising:
magnetically attracting two portions of the stomach wall toward one another.

2. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the magnetically attracting comprises:
implanting a magnetic device in each of the two portions.

3. The method defined in claim 2 wherein the implanting is performed from inside the stomach cavity.

4. The method defined in claim 3 wherein the implanting is performed trans-orally.

5. The method defined in claim 2 wherein the implanting is reversible by removing at least one of the magnetic devices.

6. The method defined in claim 5 wherein the removing is performed from inside the stomach cavity.

7. The method defined in claim 6 wherein the removing is performed trans-orally.

8. Apparatus for reducing the effective volume of a patient's stomach cavity comprising:
first and second magnetic implants at respective first and second stomach wall locations that
5 permit the implants to magnetically interact with one

another, resulting in an application of force to the stomach wall locations.

9. The apparatus defined in claim 8 wherein the force is directed toward the interior of the stomach cavity.

10. The apparatus defined in claim 8 wherein the force tends to produce deflection of at least one of the stomach wall locations.

11. The apparatus defined in claim 10 wherein the deflection is inwardly of the stomach cavity.

12. The apparatus defined in claim 8 wherein each of the magnetic implants is configured for implanting from inside the stomach cavity.

13. The apparatus defined in claim 12 wherein each of the magnetic implants is configured for implanting via catheter-like instrumentation inserted into the stomach cavity.

14. The apparatus defined in claim 13 wherein the catheter-like instrumentation is trans-oral.

15. The apparatus defined in claim 12 wherein at least one of the magnetic implants is configured for removal via catheter-like instrumentation inserted into the stomach cavity.

16. The apparatus defined in claim 15 wherein the catheter-like instrumentation is trans-oral.

17. Apparatus for reducing the effective volume of a patient's stomach cavity comprising:

instrumentation for trans-orally
implanting first and second magnetic devices at
5 respective first and second stomach wall locations that
permit the implants to magnetically interact with one
another and thereby tend to deflect at least one of the
first and second stomach wall locations.

18. The apparatus defined in claim 17
further comprising:

further instrumentation for trans-orally
removing at least one of the magnetic devices.

19. A method of changing the geometry of a
patient's stomach comprising:

implanting first and second magnetic
implants at respective first and second stomach wall
5 locations that permit the magnetic implants to
magnetically interact with one another and thereby tend
to deflect at least one of the first and second stomach
wall locations.

20. The method defined in claim 19 wherein
the implanting is performed from inside the stomach
cavity.

21. The method defined in claim 20 wherein
the implanting is performed trans-orally.

22. The method defined in claim 19 wherein
the implanting is reversible by removing at least one
of the magnetic devices.

23. The method defined in claim 22 wherein the removing is performed from inside the stomach cavity.

24. The method defined in claim 23 wherein the removing is performed trans-orally.